

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

12 December 2019

NOTICE OF INTENT/NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT A CONDITIONAL WAIVER OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL FOOD PROCESSORS, WINERIES, AND RELATED AGRICULTURAL PROCESSORS WITHIN THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

Water Code section 13269 authorizes the Central Valley Water Board (Board) to conditionally waive waste discharge requirements if the waiver is consistent with the Board's water quality control plan and is in the public interest. The Board is proposing to adopt a Conditional Waiver to regulate the discharge of wastewater and residual solids from small food processing operations, small wineries, and certain agricultural operations (such as nut hulling and seed washing operations). The proposed Conditional Waiver will renew the previous Waiver (Order R5-2015-0005) which allowed discharges of up to 1,000,000 gallons of process wastewater per year to irrigate crops or landscaped areas and the use of the associated residual solids as a soil amendment on cropped or landscaped areas provided that the characteristics of the discharge meet the criteria specified in the Waiver.

The Board's adoption of the Conditional Waiver is considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Board is the lead agency for the project. There are no substantial changes proposed in the project or the circumstances under which the "project" will be undertaken, that will require revisions of the previously adopted Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration that evaluated the prior conditional waiver. The adoption of this resolution is exempt from CEQA insofar as it continues to provide regulatory coverage, in the form of a conditional waiver per Water Code section 13269, for existing facilities and operations; there are no substantial expansions in operations authorized under this resolution and waiver.

A public hearing to consider the adoption of the proposed Conditional Waiver will be conducted during the Central Valley Water Board meeting scheduled for:

DATE: 20/21 February 2020
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive #200
Rancho Cordova, CA

KARL E. LONGLEY ScD, P.E., CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

In order to conserve paper and to reduce mailing costs, paper copies are not being mailed. Interested parties are advised that the full text of the proposed Conditional Waiver is available on the Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/tentative_orders

under the heading of "All Other Items for Future Regional Water Board Meetings". The documents available on the website may not be compliant with applicable web accessibility standards, and therefore paper copies are available upon request.

The Board is soliciting comments and recommendations from the public regarding the proposed Conditional Waiver. The Board will be accepting comments from **12 December 2019** until **5:00 p.m. on 10 January 2020**. Late comments will not be considered or included in the record unless allowed by the Board Chair.

The documents are available for inspection at the address above during normal business hours.

Anyone with questions or who needs paper copies should contact Scott Armstrong at the address above, (916) 464-4616, or scott.armstrong@waterboards.ca.gov. The Central Valley Water Board is a paperless office system. Therefore, please submit your comments by email or convert your comment letter to Portable Document Format (pdf) and email it to: centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov

To ensure that your letter is routed to the appropriate staff member, please include the following in the subject line of the email: **Comments on Food Processor Waiver – Attention: Scott Armstrong.**

SCOTT ARMSTRONG, P.G., C.HG.
Senior Engineering Geologist
Waste Discharge to Land Permitting Unit

cc: see next page

cc: Timothy O'Brien, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento
County Clerks
County Planning Departments
County Environmental Health Departments
California Native American Tribal Governments
2015 Waiver Enrollees
Bob Chrobak, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, San Francisco
Ron Crites, Brown and Caldwell, Davis
Dan Hinrichs, DJH Engineering, Placerville
Roger Isom, Western Agricultural Processors Association, Fresno
Rob Neenan, California League of Food Processors, Sacramento
Chris Savage, E&J Gallo, Modesto
JoAnn Kipps (via email)
Sacramento Bee (via email)
Fresno Bee (via email)
Record Searchlight (via email)